

### **Sustainable Mobility**

One of the greatest environmental and social challenges of our century will be to find sustainable transportation solutions. At present, approximately 25% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from the transportation of people and goods. Transportation is also responsible for an intensive use of fossil fuels, air and noise pollution and the number of deaths from transport-related accidents is on the rise. By 2030, there will be a 50% increase in passenger traffic and freight volume will grow by 70% globally.

Billions of people in emerging economies such as India, China, sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia would like to have a lifestyle similar to that in the west, including similar forms of transportation. The first Global Mobility Summit took place in New Delhi, India in September 2018 to discuss the question of sustainable mobility. Leaders and politicians realise that instead of using private transport and trucks, people have to be encouraged to use sustainable transport modes such as public transport, bicycle, electric vehicles, car-sharing and rail freight.

At the global level, the World Bank Group is also trying to help the transport sector achieve sustainable mobility. In 2017, the first meeting dedicated entirely to the question of sustainable mobility took place at the World Bank headquarters. Experts in the transport sector, politicians and other leaders took part.

Firstly, they agreed that a strong collaboration was necessary. By working together, they could reach global agreements regarding sustainable mobility more easily. This unified approach would give them credibility and reliability, which would attract private and development finance partners.

Secondly, they defined four global goals for achieving sustainable mobility: 1) equitable access; 2) security and safety; 3) efficiency; and 4) pollution and climate-responsiveness.

Thirdly, they realised that the economic evaluation of transport projects needed changing. The funding of road projects should not focus solely on reducing travel time, but also consider road safety, inclusivity and climate impact.

They also discussed how technology could aid sustainable mobility. Smartphones enable users to access mobility services such as car-sharing and carpooling. Autonomous vehicle technology could help optimise roadway utilisation, which could save billions for future infrastructure expansion.

Another objective is to avoid the unnecessary physical movement of people and goods. Technology can help here too, for example, employers could allow their staff to work from home via telework options.

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